

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

Appointments to the State Textbook Commission

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.405 (2)

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the recommendation for appointments to the State Textbook Commission?

Background/History:

Existing Policy. In accordance with KRS 156.405(2), the Kentucky Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer, approves the appointments of members to the State Textbook Commission for terms of four years. Two appointments are made each year with the exception of four appointments made every fourth year.

The State Textbook Commission oversees the state adoption process for textbooks and instructional materials. It consists of ten members who represent the various areas of the commonwealth--two (2) parents, two (2) administrators, five (5) teachers, and one (1) higher education representative. Their responsibilities include approving substitutions, establishing the state multiple list, approving membership for a statewide review team, and developing an evaluation instrument for each adoption group with the assistance of the review team.

Individuals currently serving on the Commission are as follows:

Rhonda Boyd, teacher, Georgetown Middle School, Georgetown (Scott Co.)
L. J. Harville, teacher, Belfry Middle and High School (Pike County)
Denishia Martin, teacher, Warren East High School, Bowling Green (Warren County)
Jennifer Mattingly, principal, Rockcastle County High School (Rockcastle Co.)
Natalie Stiglitz, higher education faculty, University of Louisville, Louisville (Jefferson County)
Mary Mills, parent, Munfordville (Hart Co.)
Dennis Pearce, parent, Lexington (Fayette County)
Cliff Owen, administrator, McCracken County Schools, Paducah (McCracken Co.)
Karen Roberts, teacher, Longfellow Primary School, Mayfield (Graves Co.)
Katrina Slone, teacher, Hindman Elementary, Hindman (Knott Co.)

Policy Issues and Options:

According to KRS 156.405(2), the State Textbook Commission is required to have ten members. As of March 2, 2007, the terms of Katrina Slone and Cliff Owen ended, creating two vacancies on the Commission. Ms. Slone had served one term and is willing to serve a second term. Mr. Owen will be retiring from his position as a district administrator and thus will be ineligible to be reappointed for a second term.

If the proposed two members are approved, the composition of the State Textbook Commission will represent all areas of the state, will consist of two (2) males and eight (8) females, will be composed of one (1) African-American and nine (9) Caucasians, and meet the requirements set forth in statute.

Options are:

1. Approve the appointments.
2. Delay action and request new applicants.
3. Deny the appointments.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff proposes that the board approve the appointments of the following persons to the State Textbook Commission. Each applicant is fully qualified to be a member of the Commission.

Katrina Slone is a teacher at Hindman Elementary School in Knott County. Ms. Slone is eligible for reappointment for a full four-year term. She has taught kindergarten through 4th grade in a two-room school, preschool through 4th grade as a science specialist, and 5th and 6th grade science. She currently is teaching 7th and 8th grade science. Ms. Slone has twenty years of teaching experience. Ms. Slone believes textbooks and instructional materials serve to provide resources and support for teaching and learning in the classroom. She stated on her application that no textbook or instructional material meets the needs of every curriculum but provides teachers with support to design units within the curriculum.

Ken Dearborn is an assistant principal at Holmes High School in the Covington Independent School District. Mr. Dearborn has served as an administrator for six years and previously as a classroom teacher in Social Studies and Fine Arts in grades 8-12 for eight years. In both roles he has been involved with the evaluation of instructional resources and the design of curriculum and units with emphasis on implementing Kentucky's Program of Studies and Core Content. On his application for the Textbook Commission he stated his belief that textbooks should be considered as only one of many potential instructional resources to ensure the highest quality of teaching and learning for every student. "In Kentucky, we cannot afford to view textbooks as what drives our curriculum. That is the purpose of the Kentucky Core Content for Assessment and the Program of Studies."

Impact on Getting to Proficiency Efforts:

This process ensures that teachers and students have access to the most current instructional resources in a variety of formats and learning levels.

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Interim Commissioner of Education

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